

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 7 of 1881.

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 12th February 1881.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhárat Shramajíví" ...	Calcutta	2,100	
2	"Grámvártá Prakáshiká" ...	Comercolly	175	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
3	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong	600	
4	"Purva Pratidhwani" ...	Ditto	.....
5	"Rajshahye Samvád" ...	Rajshahye	31	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patriká" ...	Calcutta	700	31st January 1881.
7	"Arya Darpan" ...	Ditto	.....	4th and 11th February 1881.
8	"Bhárat Mihir" ...	Mymensingh	671	1st February 1881.
9	"Bengal Advertiser" ...	Calcutta	2,000	
10	"Bardwán Sanjivaní" ...	Burdwán	296	1st ditto.
11	"Dacca Prakásh" ...	Dacca	350	6th ditto.
12	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	745	4th ditto.
13	"Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Beauleah, Rájsháhye	200	2nd and 9th February 1881.
14	"Murshidábád Patriká" ...	Berhampore	487	28th January 1881.
15	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi" ...	Ditto	.....
16	"Navavibhákar" ...	Calcutta	850	31st ditto.
17	"Paridarshak" ...	Sylhet	.....	23rd and 30th January 1881.
18	"Pratikár" ...	Berhampore	275	
19	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ...	Kakiniá, Rungpore	250	3rd February 1881.
20	"Sádhárani" ...	Chinsurah	500	6th ditto.
21	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta	500	31st January 1881.
22	"Som Prakásh" ...	Changripottá, 24-Perghs.	.....	7th February 1881.
23	"Sulabha Samáchár" ...	Calcutta	4,000	5th ditto.
24	"Sríhatta Prakásh" ...	Sylhet	440	5th ditto.
25	"Tripurá Vártávaha" ...	Commillah	.....
<i>Daily.</i>				
26	"Samvád Prabhákar" ...	Calcutta	700	2nd to 10th February 1881.
27	"Samvád Púrnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	300	1st to 9th ditto.
28	"Samáchár Chandriká" ...	Ditto	625	5th to 11th ditto.
29	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká" ...	Ditto	500	5th to 8th ditto.
30	"Prabháti" ...	Ditto	.....
31	"Samáchár Sudhábarsan" ...	Ditto	.....
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
32	"Urdu Guide" ...	Ditto	365	5th February 1881.
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
33	"Behár Bandhu" ...	Bankipore, Patna	500	
34	"Bhárat Mitra" ...	Calcutta	500	3rd ditto.
35	"Sár Sudhánidhi" ...	Ditto	200	7th ditto.
36	"Uchit Baktá" ...	Ditto	.....	5th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
37	"Jám-Jahán-numá" ...	Ditto	250	4th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
38	"Tijarut-ul-Akhbár" ...	Ditto	.....
ASSAMESE.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
39	"Assam Vilásini" ...	Sibsagar	.....

POLITICAL.

PARIDARSHAK,
Jan. 23rd & 30th, 1881.

The *Paridarshak* would impress upon Government the necessity of making careful enquiries as to the true cause of the conspiracies and riots which have for

some time past been of somewhat frequent recurrence in the Deccan. It would be simply trifling with the disease, if only the outward symptoms were removed. Government would be wanting in its duty if it contented itself with only punishing the conspirators. Certainly there must be something radically wrong in the administration of the laws, or in the conduct of the officers of Government, when an inoffensive and peace-loving people like that of India are being thus driven to rise against its authority. The fact also is pregnant with deep meaning. What is it that makes such risings of so frequent recurrence in the Deccan, and so rare in Bengal or in the Punjab? Even if, owing to the timidity of its inhabitants, Bengal were left out of the account, it might yet be asked, why are such riots almost unknown in the Punjab, which is inhabited by a martial race? The answer is simple. It is the spread of education in these provinces which has made the people thoughtful and loyal. They have studied European history, and are convinced that a continuance of British rule is necessary in order to raise natives of India in the scale of nations. Patriotism has thus made them loyal to the British Government. The educated natives, in fact, are as a class exceedingly loyal. It therefore behoves Government to extend educational operations in this country.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
January 31st, 1881.

The Liberal Ministry and the cotton duties.

2. The *Naravibhakar*, of the 31st January, observes that the present Liberal Ministry are gradually disappointing the expectations that were formed of them when they returned to power. Even when,

after their accession to office, Mr. Gladstone and Lord Hartington remained indifferent to India, the people consoled themselves with the reflection that conscientious men as they were, they could not do anything in haste. But all expectation of good is gradually dying out; nay, on the contrary, positive injury to Indian interests is resulting from the actions of the present Government. The Editor proceeds to comment on the reply of the Secretary of State to the recent deputation of the Lancashire merchants. It is extremely to be regretted that, under the plea of free trade principles, Lord Hartington has sought to promote the interests of that body at the expense of those of the people of India. Indeed he appears in a new light, and will evidently lose the reputation he has hitherto enjoyed for conscientiousness and love of duty. The reproof he has administered to Sir Ashley Eden in this connection was extremely unjust.

BHARAT MIHIR,
February 1st, 1881.

The Liberal Ministry and the cotton duties.

3. On the same subject, the *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 1st February, makes similar observations.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
January 31st, 1881.

The Kohlapore conspiracy.

4. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 31st January, thus concludes an account of the trial of the Kohlapore conspirators:—Whether Ram Bhut and his accomplices are really guilty, we cannot tell; but the incidents disclosed in the course of the trial are such as could only happen in a tale. Indeed, if they had not been reported in the columns of the *Bombay Gazette*, and if the Sessions Judge of Kohlapore had not set about the enquiry, we should have regarded the whole affair as a grandmother's story. The punishment of the accused is not likely to do the least good to anybody. It will, however, do harm. The matter will encumber the pages of history, and sorely tax the patience of those who may hereafter have to study it in order to qualify themselves for the University examinations.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

5. The *Paridarshak*, of the 23rd and 30th January, makes the following observations regarding the proposal to abolish the office of Press Commissioner:—The

PARIDARSHAK,
Jan. 23rd & 30th, 1881.

The Press Commissioner. efforts of the present incumbent of the office, Mr. Lethbridge, has been successful to some extent. He took great pains to visit the Editors of newspapers, and they have, in turn, sent a memorial to Government for the retention of his post. Right or wrong, the fact cannot be denied that the Press Commissionership is a part of the machinery of the Vernacular Press Act. The memorialists indeed have laboured to prove that there does not exist any such connection between the two, as the office was established before the passing of Act IX; but those that are acquainted with the tortuous policy and the insincere character of Lord Lytton will not attach much importance to this argument. The Press Act did not come into existence as the result of a few days' deliberation; it had occupied the attention of the authorities for a long time past. The manner in which the Press Commissioner's office is now doing its work is such that its abolition is not likely to do much harm. It is not therefore wise to keep up this costly sinecure.

6. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Samá-
Mr. Mosley's case and Sir Ashley chár Chandriká* of the 1st February:—For
Eden.

SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
February 1st, 1881.

yet another year will the representative of the Auckland family occupy the throne of Bengal, and rule the destinies of sixty millions of human beings. Fortunately, however, the term of a Lieutenant-Governor's office has been fixed, otherwise how many worthies would have it in their power to do us harm. Whether after his tenure of office in Bengal is over, Sir Ashley Eden will retire from this country for good or take his seat as a member of the Imperial Council, we cannot tell. But certain it is that Bengal will not in the least regret his departure. With the exception of one or two sections of zemindars, a few *protégés*, and other interested persons, no one whose heart beats with pure philanthropy can help rejoicing over the event. Sir Ashley Eden has always given himself out as a friend of Bengal, and his accession to the Lieutenant-Governorship created high hopes in the minds of the people. They have been disappointed. Bengal has not been for some years past fortunate in having good Lieutenant-Governors. Sir George Campbell created quite a revolution in the affairs of these provinces. He was a sincere man, of good intentions, and an advocate of progress; but he was deaf to counsel and did what he thought best. Not being, however, well acquainted with the country and its people, his rule caused great suffering. Him succeeded Sir Richard Temple, a man of sweet words and a conciliatory disposition, whose heart, however, was neither so sincere nor so exalted as his predecessor's. His moral sense was not particularly strong, and his ways were not straightforward. Sir Richard Temple worked with a view to please his official superiors and secure his own promotion. Bengal under his rule was not happy. Sir Ashley Eden came next, and his advent led men to hope that they would be happy. But alas! Sir Ashley as Lieutenant-Governor was now seen to be a person different from what he was as Magistrate and Secretary. The tame domestic cat had now become once more wild. His former love and partiality for the Bengalis had changed into a feeling of dislike. With the exception of a few zemindars and *protégés*, all other Bengalis have become an object of contempt with him.

Although not fully answering all expectations, Sir George Campbell, and Sir Richard Temple after him, nevertheless inaugurated certain really beneficial measures. By opening the way for the education of the masses, and by his manful efforts to save the people alive during a fearful famine,

Sir George Campbell rendered valuable services to this country, while the introduction of the elective system into the Calcutta Municipality will long be remembered as one of the great public measures of Sir Richard Temple's rule. The administrations of these rulers have been characterized by both good and bad consequences; although the good is outweighed by the evil. The administration of Sir Ashley Eden has not conferred any new benefits upon the country, while, on the contrary, its interests are being sacrificed on all sides. The Vernacular Press Act, and the Lieutenant-Governor's attitude towards Native Editors and educated Bengalis, and the poor peasantry of Bengal, are then referred to as illustrating this position. In conclusion, the Editor adverts to the case of Mr. Mosley's misunderstanding with Baboo Atul Chandra Chatterji, and the decision of Government in this matter is characterized as being unjust to the latter.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
January 31st, 1881.

7. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Navavibhákar* of the 31st January:—It is only those that have the good of India at heart who constantly urge Government to

Employment of natives in the public service.

appoint natives of the country to high offices in the State, and they base their recommendations on two considerations:—The first of these is that the natives ought to get such appointments, because they alone have the rightful claim. They are wronged when Government deprives them of what is their due and gives it away to Europeans. The second argument is that the services of natives, more competent than the generality of Europeans who are admitted into the public service, might be made available at less cost. This view of the question was urged upon the Government of India by Professor Caird. Its reply is characteristic, and would at first sight seem to be conceived in an exceedingly liberal spirit. A little reflection will, however, soon correct this impression. It is stated in the Government reply that in 1874 the number of Civilian officers was 929, and that at present it is 838, thus shewing there has been a decrease of 91 appointments hitherto held by Civilians. It might be inferred from this that these appointments have been conferred upon natives, but that is not the fact. They have been simply abolished. From the language employed by Government, one might be led to think that it was very anxious to see natives raised to high offices in the public service, but nothing could be further from the truth. Government, however, has let the cat out of the bag in the concluding portion of its reply to Mr. Caird. It there distinctly says that the substitution of the native for European agency in the public service is a task which cannot be hastily carried out without injury and even danger to the interests of the State. The meaning of this would seem to be that the time has not come when natives might be elevated to offices of responsibility, and that they would not be kept out therefrom when it came. "God only knows when it will come. We suppose it will come with the millennium." The Editor then proceeds to dwell upon the proved ability and trustworthiness of native officers, and remarks there would not be the least possibility of any injury or danger to public interests if they were raised to high offices under Government. The only injury that could result would be confined to a number of worthless Europeans who now fatten upon the hardwring Indian revenues. These would be thrown out of employment. The substitution of natives for Europeans in the public service has become necessary, at least from a financial point of view, even if Government ignored the rightful claims of the children of the soil to high offices in the service of their country.

8. The following observations are extracted from an article in the same paper on the Native Press :—It is exceedingly desirable that the rulers should foster the Native

The Native Press.

NAVAVIBHAKA,
January 31st, 1881.

Press in its present onward career. Unfortunately, however, the attitude of some of the highest authorities towards the vernacular newspapers is one of decided hostility. By enacting the Press Law, Lord Lytton has arrested their progress, while Sir Ashley Eden has dealt them repeated blows. We have shown how, in the last Administration Report of Bengal, he has shown a fault-finding spirit in noticing the tone of the native prints. Has this conduct been worthy of him? Instead of encouraging them, he has rather paved the way for their decadence by his uncharitable remarks. This conduct on the part of a ruler like Sir Ashley Eden, who has the good of the people at heart, is really unintelligible. The independence of the Native Press, it would seem, has become disagreeable to him. That natives of the country, who have always licked the feet of foreign conquerors, should now raise their heads and proclaim the shortcomings of the beneficent British rule, while seeking to place checks on the authority of British officials, is a spectacle which is regarded as simply impudent. Born of an aristocratic family, and holding a high official position, Sir Ashley Eden may possibly have a disposition which can ill brook the out-spokenness of puny native Editors; but they in their turn have been really harassed by the ebullitions of his temper and constant attacks. If the Native Press has faults, the Lieutenant-Governor, instead of losing patience, would have acted wisely by pointing out how they might be removed. Not one of the charges he has brought against it is founded on fact. He has referred to the attitude of opposition shown to measures of Government by vernacular newspapers. They, it seems, should not have opened their lips in protest, even when the Press Act, the License-tax Act and the Arms Act were becoming law. His second remark has reference to the personalities in which native papers are said to abound. It would appear from this that Native Editors should silently bear the high-handedness of Government officers, if they wish to secure His Honor's good will. Vernacular journals are in the next place blamed for their lack of originality. This amounts to saying that though these journals are not to have the benefit of any official information being supplied to them, they will not still be justified in extracting the necessary items of news from English papers, and yet they must contain original articles.

9. The *Sahachar*, of the 31st January, contains a long article on the employment of Bengalis in Behar, and the recent circular of the Government of

Sir Ashley Eden on the employment of Bengalis in Behar.

Bengal on the subject. The writer contends

that Sir Ashley Eden has, in issuing this circular, acted beyond his powers. No other body, except Parliament, can make any rule which is opposed to the spirit of the Queen's proclamation—a document which does not make any distinction of persons in the matter of appointment to the public service. The public are exhorted to memorialize the Governor-General on this matter. In the article reference is made to the undue leniency always shown by the *Hindoo Patriot* in commenting on the actions of Sir Ashley Eden, and a sketch is given of His Honor's public career. Sir Ashley Eden, it is remarked, is a man of commonplace abilities. His *forte* has always lain in a knack of adapting himself to the caprices of his official superiors. Thus he has been by turns a friend and an enemy of the indigo-planters. His hostility to vernacular newspapers is also due to this cause. He perceived with accuracy the true character of Lord Lytton's rule, and accordingly set himself to support it. Extremely aristocratic in his disposition, he cannot bear to see natives discuss politics, or affect an independent bearing.

SAHACHAR,
January 31st, 1881.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
February 1st, 1881.

Sir Ashley Eden on the Native
Press.

10. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 1st February, regrets to notice that Sir Ashley Eden's views on the tone of vernacular newspapers remain yet unchanged. His strictures, however, are quite unjustifiable. The native papers never oppose any measure adopted by Government when it is calculated to be beneficial; they only warn the rulers in cases in which any action on their part is likely to produce injurious consequences.

BHARAT MIHIR,
February 1st, 1881.

11. The *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 1st February, asks Lord Ripon to repeal the Arms Act and the License-tax. As regards the former measure, there does not exist the least justification. If it was really necessary to impose any check on the possession of arms by savage tribes on the frontiers of India, special legislation might effect that object. What was the good of bringing the whole of India under the purview of the Act? As it is, the Arms Act is a standing proof of the fact that Government makes an invidious distinction of colour in India, and distrusts the natives. The License-tax has proved most harassing, and the people are simply tired of making complaints.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
February 2nd, 1881.

12. One Rajanikanta Saha, writing to the *Hindu Ranjiká* of the 2nd February from Mokatipore in Maldah, dwells on the hardship to which traders in that district have been subjected owing to inequitable assessments with the license-tax. Although the limit of taxable income has been successively raised by Government, in practice the assessee have not benefited by the change. The assessors have estimated incomes according to their own sweet will, and have in many cases positively refused to look into the books. It is a fact which can be proved that many who had paid the tax under the old rule did not obtain refunds when the limit was first raised to Rs. 250. Appeals are as a rule dismissed. The population consists mostly of agriculturists and labourers, but here one out of every hundred and seventy-eight persons has been assessed with the tax.

SÁDHARANI,
February 6th, 1881.

13. Referring to a paragraph which has appeared in two leading English papers, to the effect that Government will shortly repeal the Vernacular Press Act, the *Sádháraní*, of the 6th February, thinks it necessary to give a brief account of the circumstances which led up to the passing of that measure into law. The writer describes how it was passed at one sitting of the Council, what consternation it occasioned when Native Editors first became aware of its existence, and how their humiliation was complete when they were called upon to execute bail-bonds.

SÁDHARANI.

14. The same paper adverts to the unsatisfactory character of educational operations in Orissa. The Cuttack College has hitherto done but little to justify its existence, but strange to remark that Government, quite contrary to its policy in the matter of high English education—a policy which has been clearly seen in the abolition of the B A classes in many colleges—has "on political grounds" decided upon maintaining this institution. The meaning of this could only be found in the unwillingness of Government to see a fusion of Bengalis and Uriyas, and the employment of the former in the public service in Orissa. The continuance of the college would in a few years secure a body of educated Uriyas, and thus enable Government to dispense with the necessity of importing Bengalis. A similar policy has been applied to Behar. No one could be so mean as to wish that the Uriyas should remain for ever inferior to the Bengalis in learning and

intelligence, and the spread of education in Orissa would be welcomed by every Bengali. Both would be benefited by mutual intercourse. It is, however, greatly to be deplored that Government should seek to sow dissensions between the inhabitants of Bengal and Orissa.

15. The *Som Prakash*, of the 7th February, remarks that, if Government had at the outset appointed honest and well-behaved men to do the work of

Sonthal affairs. enumerators in Sonthalistan, the troubles that have occurred in that part of the country in connection with the census could have been easily avoided. It is not yet too late to explain to the headmen the object of a census.

16. The same paper contains an article highly eulogistic of Lord Ripon.

Lord Ripon. Learning from an English newspaper that

Government will shortly repeal the Press

Act, the Editor gives the Viceroy the credit of the proposed measure. His Excellency has fulfilled the expectations that were formed of his character. The Editor exhorts Lord Ripon to remove the other grievances of the people of India. The spread of high education, the appointment of natives equally with Europeans to the public service, the repeal of the license-tax, the raising of the limit of age required of the candidates for the Civil Service, holding the Civil Service examination in India, relieving India of the costs of wars of annexation, and the substitution of natives for Europeans wherever practicable in the public service, are mentioned as subjects which should receive His Excellency's foremost attention.

17. The same paper, in referring to the report of the Committee

Emigration into Assam. which was appointed to consider the question

of amending certain portions of the Labour

Districts Emigration Act, and to the Draft Bill prepared by them, does not approve of the provision made in the Bill for requiring labourers to enter into a five years' contract. The Draft Bill, if passed, will have the effect of applying coercion and depriving labourers of their liberty. Government should not interfere with their freedom of contract.

SOM PRAKASH,
February 7th, 1881.

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RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 12th February 1881.

